

59. *Cæsarean Section*.*—Four cases are related of the performance of this operation, with a favourable result both to mother and to child; 2 in which the mother survived, 6 in which the life of the child was preserved, and 2 in which neither life was saved. The history of the mother, in Mr. Goodman's case, is not carried beyond the third week, at which time, however, she was doing well. In the patient on whom Dr. Meyer operated, the uterus contracted around the neck of the child so firmly after the body was extracted, as to render it necessary to enlarge the incision, an accident which illustrates the advantage of extracting the head first whenever that is possible. Mr. Lyon's case presents many points of interest. The operation was rendered necessary by the presence of a tumour blocking up the pelvis, and which, from its position behind the rectum, as well as from its firmness, was taken for an osteosteatomatous tumour of the pelvis. It turned out, however, to be the left ovary, enlarged and converted for the most part into an adipocire-like substance. [The case derives great importance from being almost, if not quite the only instance of an ovarian tumour getting behind the rectum, and it illustrates the necessity of making an experimental puncture or incision of such tumours through the vagina, before exposing a patient to the dangers of the Cæsarean section.] In the case reported by Mr. Aitken, the uterus had given way before the patient's admission into the hospital, so that the Cæsarean section, which the extreme contraction of the pelvis rendered necessary, could not be regarded as the sole cause of her death. [The statistics of the operation at present yield the following results. It has been performed in 378 cases, of which trustworthy accounts have been given. In 145 of these cases, the women recovered, in 233 they died; or the recoveries were in the proportion of 38 per cent., or as one in 2.6 cases. The fate of 318 children is mentioned, of whom 219 were saved, 99 were lost, or the child survived in 68 per cent., or in rather more than 2 cases out of 3.]—*West's Report*.

60. *Lacerated Perineum*.—M. Roux, in a clinical lecture (*Gazette des Hôpitaux*, Oct. 7, 1845) on lacerated perineum, expresses himself as decidedly in favour of operating some considerable time after delivery, rather than immediately or shortly afterwards. He considers the operation at the late period to be attended with much less danger of the supervention of erysipelas, and more likely to lead to the complete closure of the wound. In 13 out of the 15 cases on which he operated, his success has been complete, but in the remaining two cases the patients died. M. Roux employs the quilled suture, having previously pared the edges of the wound, and inserts only three stitches. For the first few days he keeps a catheter in the bladder, but does not consider it necessary to maintain a constipated state of the bowels after the 6th day, and so soon as they have acted freely he cuts out the stitches. The consolidation is quite firm, and there does not appear to be any increased tendency to laceration in a subsequent labour, but rather the reverse.—*Ibid*.

61. *Asphyxia neonatorum*.—M. DEPAUL† has written a very elaborate paper on the subject of artificial respiration, as a means of resuscitating still-born children. He instituted a series of experiments on the dead subject, with the view of determining the amount of danger of injuring the lungs by the insufflation of air. He satisfied himself that this danger is almost an imaginary one, since, even after the lungs were removed from the body, it required several most forcible insufflations, far stronger than would ever be made in the case of a still-born child, to

* Both lives saved—Dittmar, *Gaz. Méd. de Strasbourg*, and *Dublin Journal*, Nov., 1845; *Lond. Gaz. Méd.*, Sept. 13, 1845; *Künsemüller*, *Neue Zeitschr. f. Geburtsk.*, xix., p. 384; *Steinbrenner*, *Gaz. des Hôpitaux*, Sept. 12, 1846. Mother survived—Goodman, *Med. Gaz.*, Dec. 26, 1845; Meyer, *Med. Zeitung*, Sept. 10, 17, 1845. Child survived—Lyon, *Monthly Journal*, Dec., 1845; Jungmann, two cases, *Oesterr. Med. Jahrb.*, Sept., 1845; Kirchoffer, *Neue Zeitschr. f. Geburtsk.*, xix., 3tes Heft; Balfour, *Northern Journal*, May, 1846; Aitken, *Lancet*, June 13, 1846. The last two cases occurred at Vienna, and are merely reported by Messrs. Balfour and Aitken. Neither life saved—*Künsemüller*, loc. cit.

† *Journal de Chirurgie*, May, June, 1845; and *J. f. Kinderkr.*, März, 1846.

produce rupture of the pulmonary vesicles. On the other hand, he was struck with the great force needed thoroughly to inflate the lungs, while their resiliency was sufficient to expel the greater part of the air. He found, moreover, in many cases where children had died suddenly after breathing for several hours or days, no other morbid appearance than an unexpanded condition of a large portion of the lungs. With reference to the mode of practising artificial respiration, he condemns the mere blowing into the mouth as inadequate, and recommends the use of a tracheal tube. He is of opinion that there is more danger of failing from imperfect insufflation than of doing harm by its too forcible performance. It is of importance, likewise, that it should not be suspended on the first sign of breathing, but continued until the child cries loudly and resumes well.—*Ibid.*

62. *Diet in Infancy*.—Dr. KLENCKE* calls attention to the important deterioration which the milk of stall-fed cows undergoes, and is inclined to attribute the production of scrofula in children in many instances, to its direct transmission through the medium of that fluid. Although the direct production of scrofula by the contagious properties of the milk is assumed rather than proved in this pamphlet, still the fact is very important that stall-fed cows often become tuberculous, and that their milk loses much or even the whole of its sugar, that the butter and casein diminish, while albumen is found, sometimes in as high a proportion as 15 per cent., and elain in the proportion of 1·4 per cent., and that in some cases lactic acid is likewise present.

In a well-written paper on the subject of diet in children, Dr. MAROTTE† draws attention to the error often committed in placing infants on a spare diet, who have been observed not to thrive at the breast, but to suffer from diarrhœa, and to lose flesh. The real means of cure would consist in obtaining a wet-nurse for the child, and thus providing it with a more instead of a less nutritious food. Many instances of gastro-intestinal disorder in childhood depend, in his opinion, on the want of a more highly animalized diet. It is therefore, as a general rule, undesirable to dilute the milk of the herbivora, already poor in animal constituents; while in those cases where it is necessary to supply deficiency in the nutritive qualities of the nurse's milk, chicken or other broth, either alone or mixed with milk, should be used for that purpose.—*Ibid.*

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

63. *Contested identity determined by the teeth*.—The following very curious case is related by Mr. A. S. TAYLOR, in his Lectures on Medical Jurisprudence, reported in the *London Medical Gazette*.

"It was a case which Mr. H. Reynolds and myself were called upon to investigate. It was a trial for murder, under circumstances in which the body was never discovered, and in which, as it happened, an important question of identity arose, founded on the presence of the incisor teeth in a female of advanced age.

"The case to which I allude is that of Elizabeth Ross, who was tried at the Old Bailey Sessions in December, 1831, for the murder of a female of the name of Caroline Walsh.

"It appeared, in evidence, that the deceased Caroline Walsh, who was an old Irishwoman, had been repeatedly solicited by the prisoner, to come and live with her and her husband, but the deceased refused. By much persuasion on the part of the prisoner, however, she at last consented, and went for that purpose to the prisoner's lodgings in Goodman's Field, on the evening of the 19th of August, 1831, taking with her her bed, and an old basket, in which she was accustomed to sell tape and other articles. From that evening all traces of the deceased were

* Ueber die Ansteckung und Verbreitung der Scrofelkrankheit bei Menschen durch den Genuss der Kumlch. Leipsig, 1846; and an abstract of it in J. f. Kinderkr., June, 1846.

† Journal de Médecine, August, 1845; and J. f. Kinderkr., March, 1846.